

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

12. (new) Transport system, comprising

- a transport track formed by at least one running rail ,
 - several vehicles to be transported, and
 - a rolling device connected to each vehicle and arranged on the said at least one running rail so as to be able to roll thereon, the vehicle provided with the rolling device having a rolling resistance on the said at least one rail ,
 - the said transport track having several descending track sections, each descending track section having a slope that is sufficient to overcome said rolling resistance of each vehicle , each vehicle thus rolling on the said at least one descending track section by simple gravity,
- wherein the transport track has a starting point and an arrival point, said starting point having an elevation equal to or higher than the starting point,
- wherein said starting point and arrival point are different, so that the transport track does not form a closed loop,
- wherein between said descending track sections there is in each case arranged a section of ascending track on which each vehicle provided with the rolling device is driven by a driving device,

wherein the slope of each descending track section is insufficient to produce a continuous acceleration of said vehicles on the said at least one running rail , each vehicle having a substantially constant speed, and

wherein the transport track has a route along which no vehicle at any point is raised higher than the elevation that the vehicle would have at this point on a transport track having a single descending track section between the starting point and the arrival point, provided with the same slope as said several descending track sections,

said transport system further comprising means for balancing the speed of two successive vehicles on said descending track sections, so as to maintain a distance between said two successive vehicles, said means for balancing the speed of two successive vehicles on said descending track sections comprising at least one endless cable returned freely in a loop by pulleys along the transport track and clamps arranged on each vehicle to grip the cable and drive the vehicle during transport.

13. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the above-mentioned slope is at least $3/1000$, preferably at least $4/1000$.

14. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the slope of said several descending track sections is constant over each descending track section.

15. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the substantially constant speed of the said at least one vehicle on the descending sections is around 30 to 50 km/h, preferably around 40 km/h.

16. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the driving devices drive each vehicle on the ascending track sections at a speed equal to said substantially constant speed of the vehicle on the descending track sections.

17. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the transport track comprises, at least on one section, support means for an overhead rail and in that each vehicle is suspended from this overhead rail by the rolling device.

18. (new): Transport system according to claim 12, wherein the said at least one vehicle is a container to be transported which has a volume, and in that the rolling device is fixed to the container in such a manner that it can be folded into the volume of the container, when the container is at rest.

19. (new): Use of a transport system according to claim 12, for transporting vehicles over long distances, comprising reading geographic elevations for the departure point and the arrival point of the transport track of said transport system and determining a route for said transport track on the basis of the geographic elevations, so as to minimise the number of ascending sections on said transport track.